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March 16, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Jocelyn Boyd Chief Clerk/Administrator **Public Service Commission of South Carolina** 101 Executive Center Drive Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.'s 2020 Annual Update on Demand Side Management Programs and Petition for an Update to Rate Rider. **This Filing Includes a Request for a Rate Increase.**

Docket No. 2020-41-E

Dear Ms. Boyd:

I am writing concerning the Notice of Hearing and Prefile Testimony Deadlines ("Notice") and Prefile Testimony Letter ("Letter"), each issued on March 12, 2020, in this docket. Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. ("DESC") respectfully requests that the Clerk's Office of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina withdraw the Notice and the Letter and reissue them only if an evidentiary hearing is requested by a party. We have consulted with the two other parties to this case, the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") and Walmart, and they have authorized us to represent that they do not object to this request.

The approach DESC suggests is consistent with past Commission practice in these proceedings. As you know, this docket involves the annual adjustment in the amount of the rate rider for demand side management ("DSM") costs. These adjustments are formula-based calculations. Each year, the Company provides the data supporting the adjustment for that year to the ORS which audits that data and reports its findings to the Commission. Parties review the ORS report to determine if there is any matter in dispute. The Commission's practice has been to approve the adjustment based on the ORS's report and the paper record if no hearing is requested by a party.

That practice—as contemplated by the testimony, settlement and order in Docket No. 2009-261-E, which established DESC's DSM programs—has worked well in prior cases beginning with the first annual update filing in Docket No. 2011-49-E and avoids the unnecessary delay and expense of a hearing. In addition, it has been DESC's practice to request and ensure that the changes to the DSM rider are made simultaneously with adjustments arising out of the Annual Review of Base Rates for

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Fuel Cost, Docket No. 2020-2-E, and the Rate Rider Related to Pension Costs, Docket No. 2020-50-E. Those adjustments would appear on customers' bills beginning with the first billing cycle of May 2020. The hearing in this matter is scheduled for April 30, 2020. If a hearing takes place in this docket on that date, it will not be possible to provide customers with a single adjustment. Multiple rate adjustments in rapid succession can lead to customer confusion and dissatisfaction.

For these reasons, DESC respectfully requests that the Clerk's Office follow established practice, withdraw the Notice and the Letter of March 12, 2020, and notice a hearing only if requested by a party.

If you have any questions, please advise.

Very truly yours,

Matthew W. Gissendanner

MWG/kms

cc: Andrew M. Bateman, Esquire
Jenny R. Pittman, Esquire
Stephanie U. (Roberts) Eaton, Esquire
(all via electronic mail)